



The Cornwell Farm residence survives as a well-preserved example of northern Virginia antebellum plantation architecture. It is scenically important in that it is the major architectural element to be seen along the historic Georgetown Pike. Built in 1831 the house, with its Georgian outline, displays the architectural conservatism characteristic of the region.

Cornwell Farm was established on land that was originally part of Lord Fairfax's Great Falls Manor. Sections of this land were bought and made into a farm by John Jackson as early as 1801. Thirty years later Jackson began construction of the present house to serve as a home for his daughter, Julia Jackson Davis (Mrs. Charles M. Davis). The house apparently was considered a high-quality building in its time, for its first insurance valuation, \$1850.00 was a comparatively high figure. At the time the house was constructed, the property was known as the Mine Ridge tract. It was later called Fairview and it acquired its present name after the Civil War when the property was purchased by B. F. Cornwell.

During the Civil War Union soldiers bivouacked on the property. Prior to the restoration the names of soldiers in companies from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and other northern states remained inscribed on the whitewashed plaster walls. The house stood abandoned until 1936 when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson Pell. Mr. Pell, a career foreign service officer, was of the Pell family of Fort Ticonderoga, New York. The Pells engaged Washington architect Theodore W. Dominick to restore the house and make additions.

[Nomination Form](#)

Cornwell Farm

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places April 13, 1977

